

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 OMB-01 CU-02 SY-05 OPR-02

A-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01

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P R 281400Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2557

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KE

SUBJECT: REACTION TO DEATH OF MP INDICATIVE OF CONTINUING TENSION
IN KENYA

1. PUBLIC REACTION TO APRIL 19 DEATH OF JOHNSTONE
MUTHIORA, KIKUYU MP WHO ATTAINED NATIONAL PROMINENCE IN LAST
OCTOBER'S GENERAL ELECTIONS WHEN HE DEFEATED FOREIGN MINISTER
MUNGAI, IS INDICATIVE OF CONTINUING TENSION IN KENYA. THOUGH
MUTHIORA, 38, APPARENTLY DIED OF BLOOD POISONING FOLLOWING
A RECENT VISIT TO INDIA, IT IS POPULARLY BELIEVED HE WAS
POISONED BY MUNGAI. STUDENT LEADER IN SPEECH AT APRIL 26
BURIAL SERVICES CALLED FOR CREATION OF PARLIAMENTARY SELECT
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE MUTHIORA'S DEATH SIMILAR TO ONE
ESTABLISHED FOLLOWING MARCH 2 SLAYING OF J.M. KARIUKI.
(COMMENT: PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE LOOKING INTO KARIUKI'S MURDER
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HAS BEEN WORKING THROUGHOUT CURRENT EASTER RECESS AND IS

EXPECTED TO SUBMIT PRELIMINARY REPORT SHORTLY AFTER ASSEMBLY
RECONVENES APRIL 29.)

2. AROUND 3,500 (INCLUDING 100-200 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS)
ATTENDED BURIAL SERVICES FOR MUTHIORA. WHEN CONDOLENCE MESSAGE
FROM PRESIDENT KENYATTA WAS READ, CROWD BEGAN TO MURMUR AND
WHISTLE. APPARENTLY FEARING A POLICE REACTION, SCORES OF
SPECTATORS AT FRONT NEAR GRAVE BEGAN TO PANIC, RUNNING AWAY FROM
SCENE. POLICE TOOK NO ACTION, SOME DODGING BEHIND TREES TO
AVOID ONRUSHING CROWD. KENYATTA MESSAGE LOST IN SHOUTING AND
GENERAL CONFUSION. TWO OR THREE MINUTES LATER CROWD REALIZED
NOTHING WAS AMISS AND REASSEMBLED, BUT TENSION REMAINED.

3. COMMENT: MUTHIORA'S DEATH, LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AFTER
SLAYING OF J.M. KARIUKI, HAS REKINDLED OVERT CRITICISM OF
PRESIDENT KENYATTA AND GOK WHICH HAD DIMINISHED SOMEWHAT
SINCE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RECESSED IN EARLY APRIL. THIS
CRITICISM CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE SHARPLY IF, AS EXPECTED,
PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING KARIUKI'S MURDER
COMES OUT WITH FINDINGS DAMAGING TO GOVERNMENT.
LINDSTROM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, DEATHS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NAIROB03406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750148-0427
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750411/aaaaakic.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO DEATH OF MP INDICATIVE OF CONTINUING TENSION IN KENYA
TAGS: PINT, KE, (MUTHIORA, JOHNSTONE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006